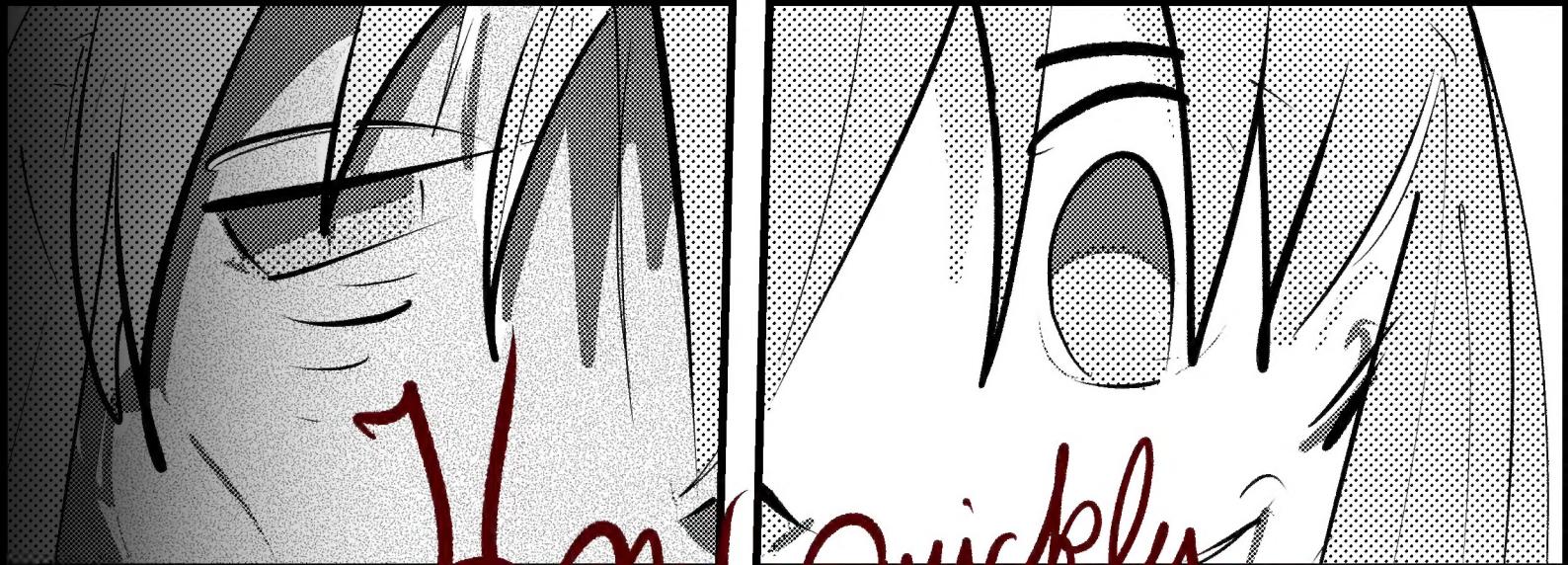
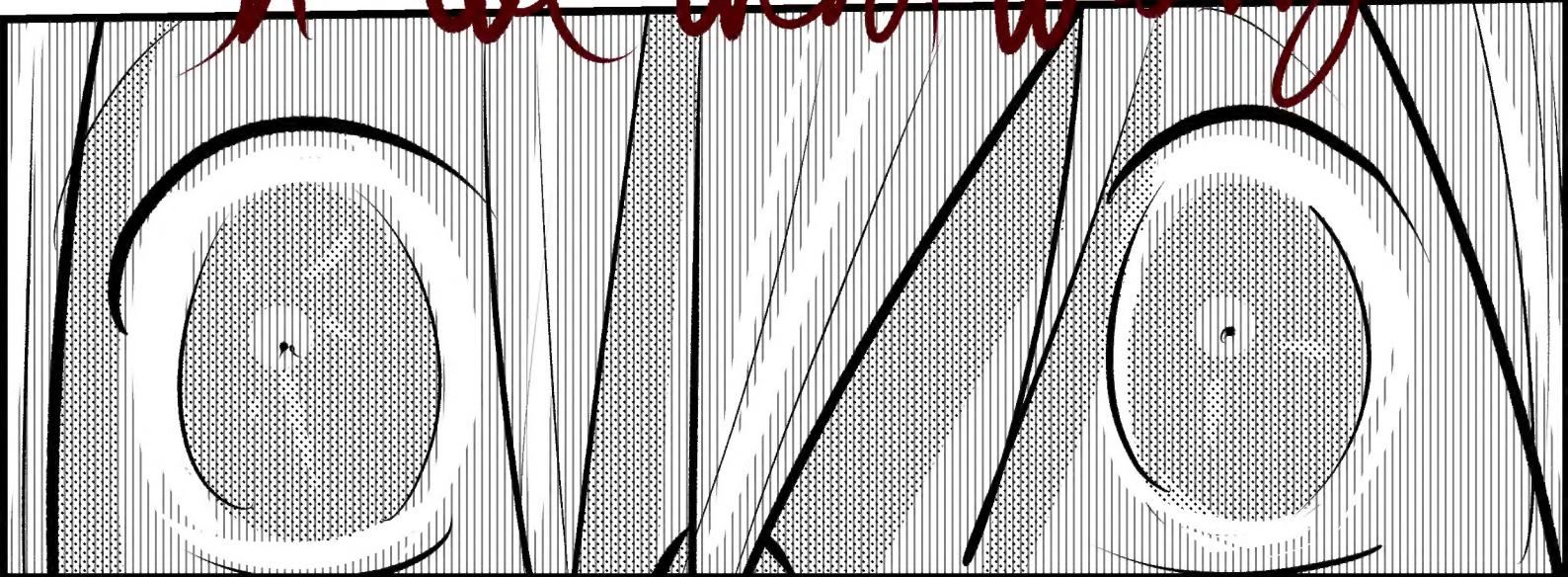


Flashbacks and Backstabs





~~It~~ all went wrong



And
now
for
you

little
miss
Albarn

These gentleman
will escort you

They will
help you
walk, even
with your
boo-boo

Rock



Why do
Americans
have to wear
shoes inside!

Another
girl choosing
jocks over
me!

Better
be
healed
...

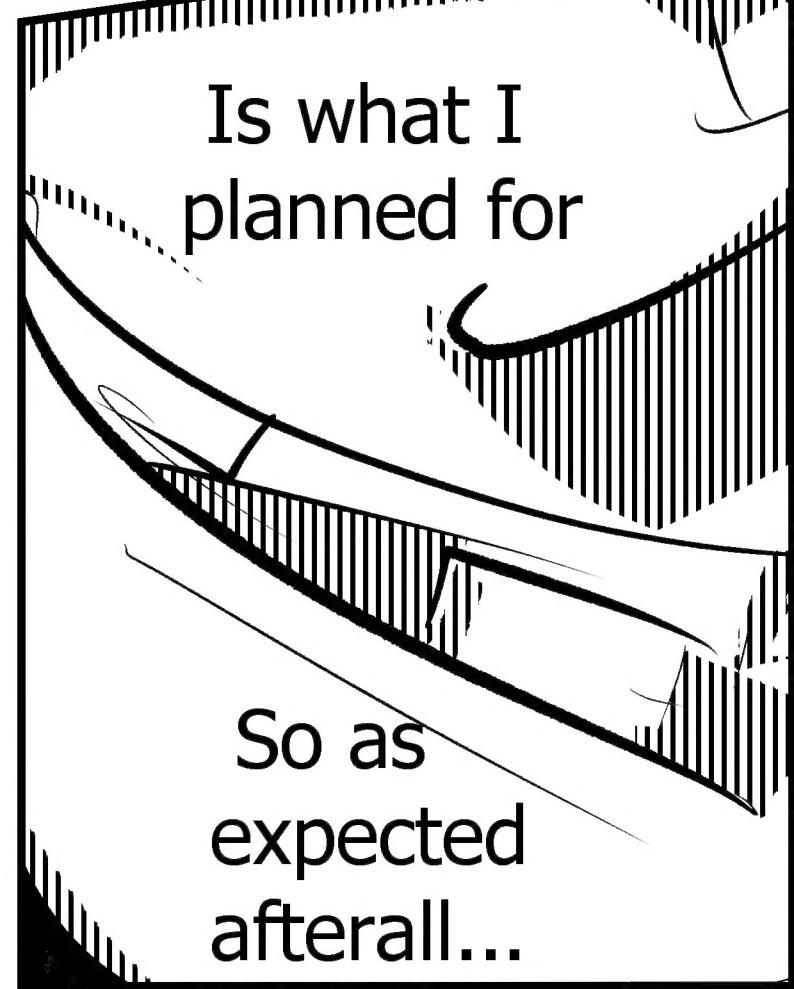
Good that
I was prepared
for if Stein
got
suspicious



The balance may
not be perfect,

but...

Who wants
their soul
taken first?





This isn't supreme at all!

While she cuts down on some of our human resources



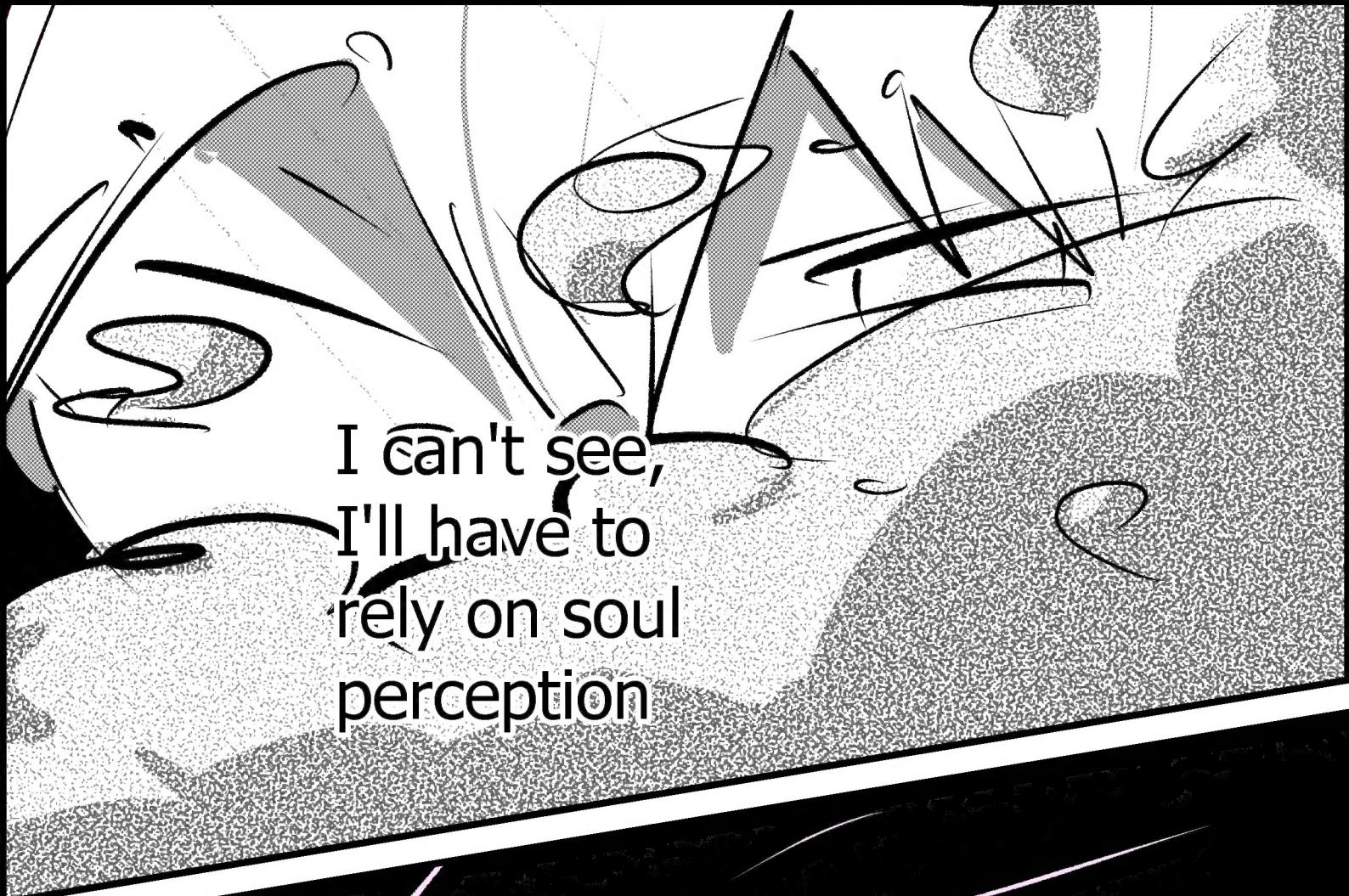
Maul maul
wurf
wurf...



I'll prepare
the distraction



Cloud 93



I can't see,
I'll have to
rely on soul
perception



There's
the
witch!



So... prison!

What
the-

Now!

I can't
move

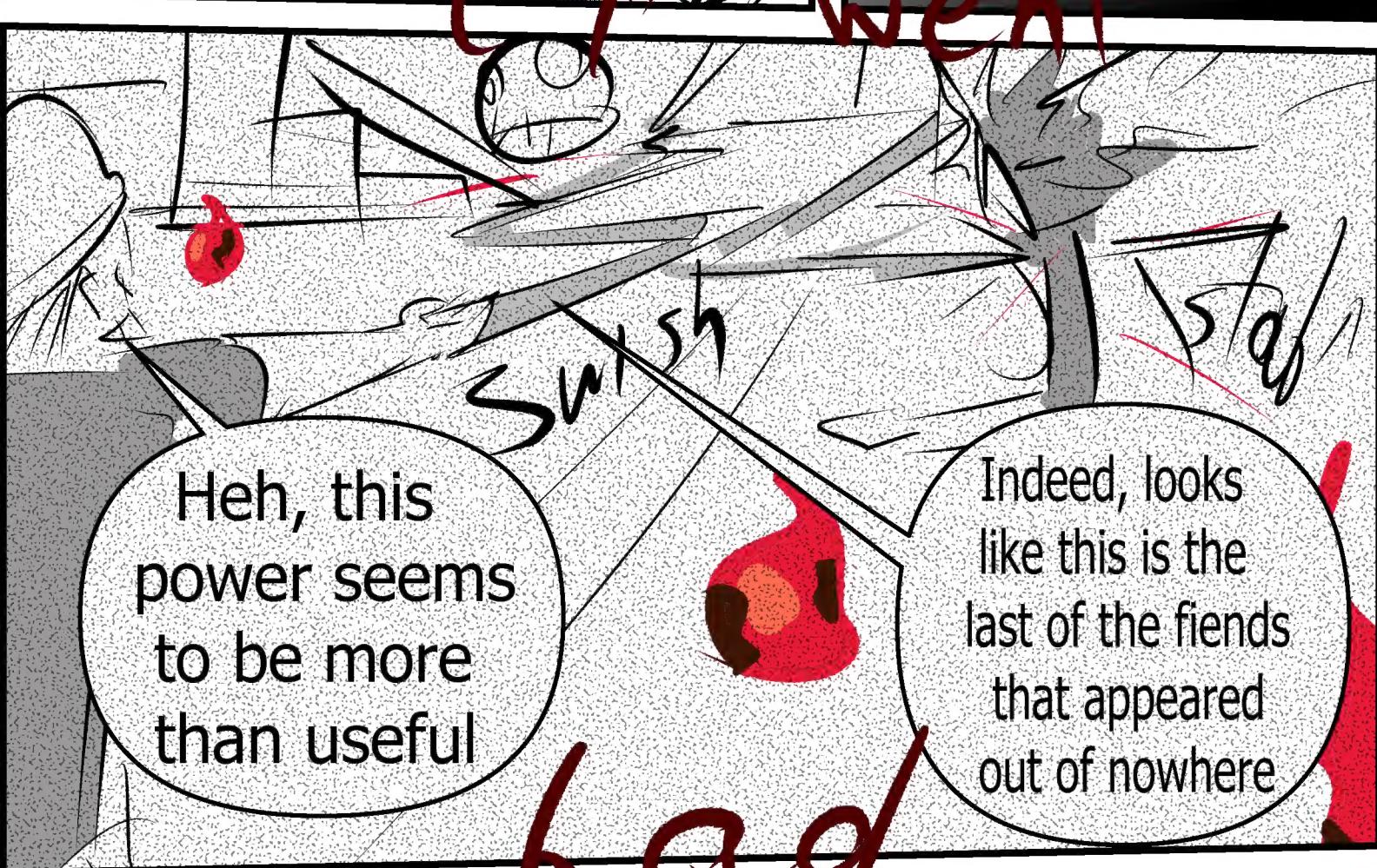
or transform

You
won't
get
me!

But we
already
did...

SO Quickly---

Hehe, should
have been more
careful, think
about it in
your dreams!



Oh... It's just another dream recalling my failures...

S-sorry for waking you up...

I-I didn't mean to bang the door that loud...

Spare me the pleasantries

What are you here for, to quarter me or what?

O-oh dear no-

We-we are still working on a better truth potion-

I already said it:

I didn't lie



Even if I wanted to,
that poison you gave
me would make me
spit it out

I just can't
reveal more

that's as
much as
I know:

It was courage!

That
defeated
the kishin

something your cowardly
bunch who attacks in such
a treachorous way
would never get!

P-please, for
your own sake...

If-if you don't,
th-they will-

What, cut my arms off,

dissolve me in acid or
force read me young
adult "literature"?

That's what your
kind does, so why
do you pretend like
you care?

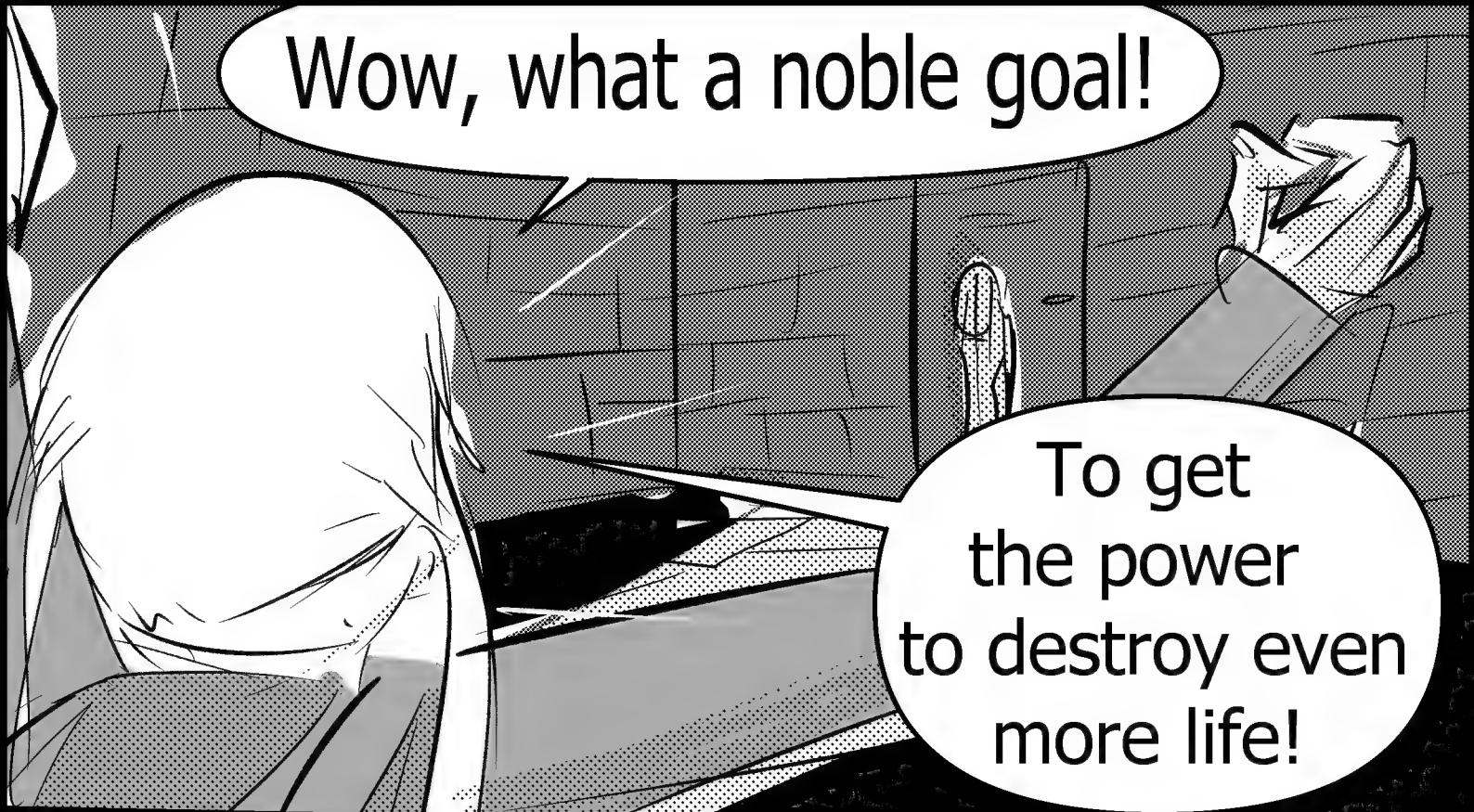
I- I- it's-

Didn't care about
how many people
could have died in
your little stunt!

I-it was a
necessarry
maneuver!

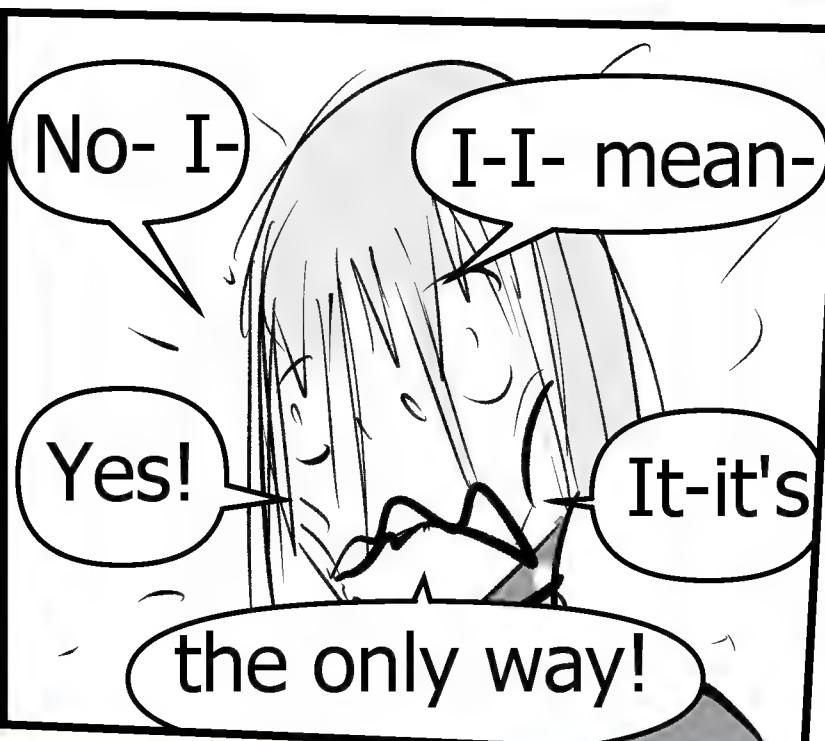
tch!

T-to
reach a
prudent
goal



Wow, what a noble goal!

To get
the power
to destroy even
more life!



No- I-

I-I- mean-

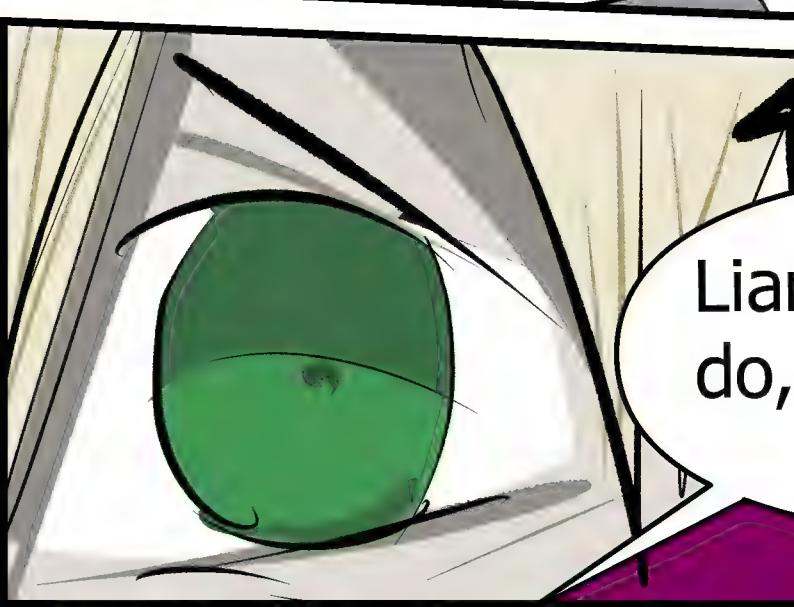
Yes!

It-it's

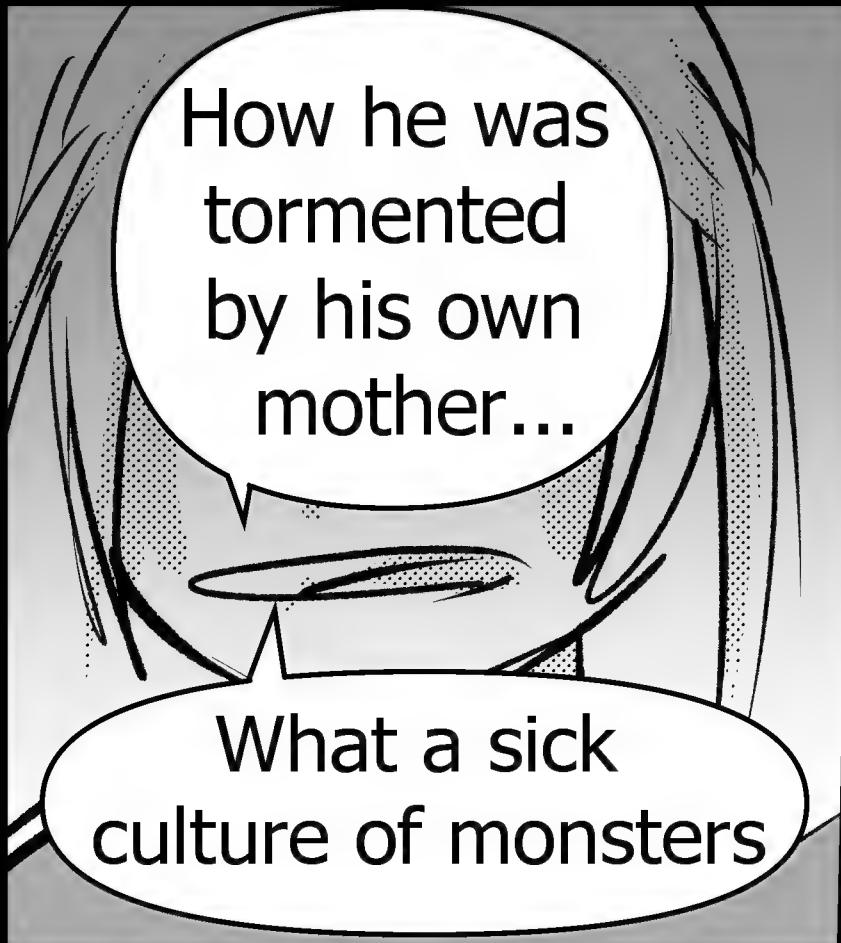
the only way!



I-I don't want
to hurt anybody,
but if-if it's me
or- or- them...

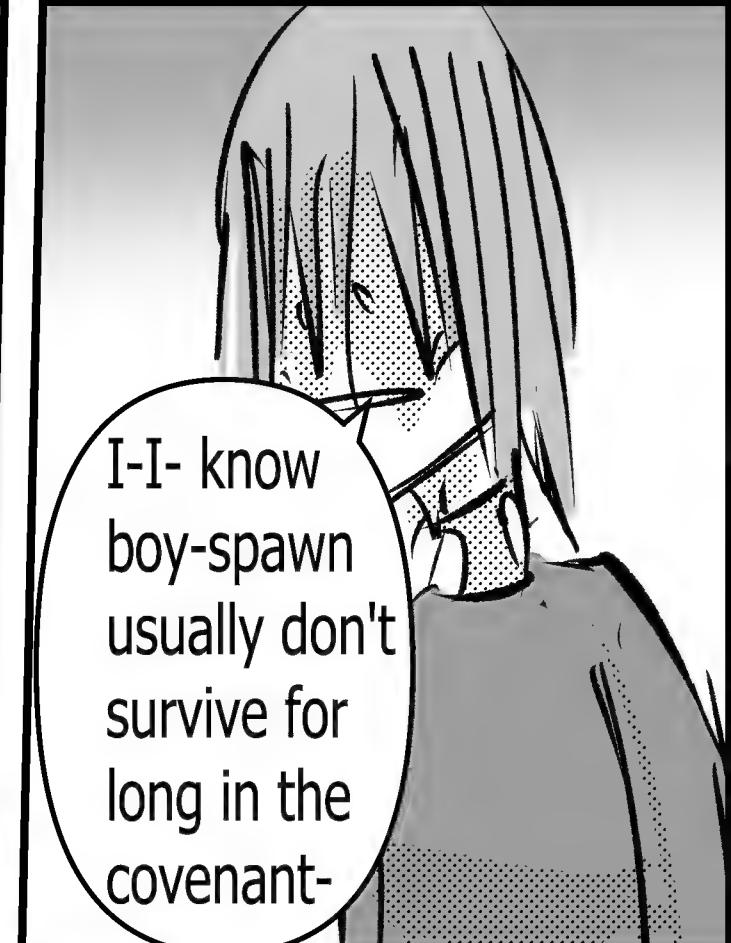


Liar! I know what witches
do, what they have done
to my friends...

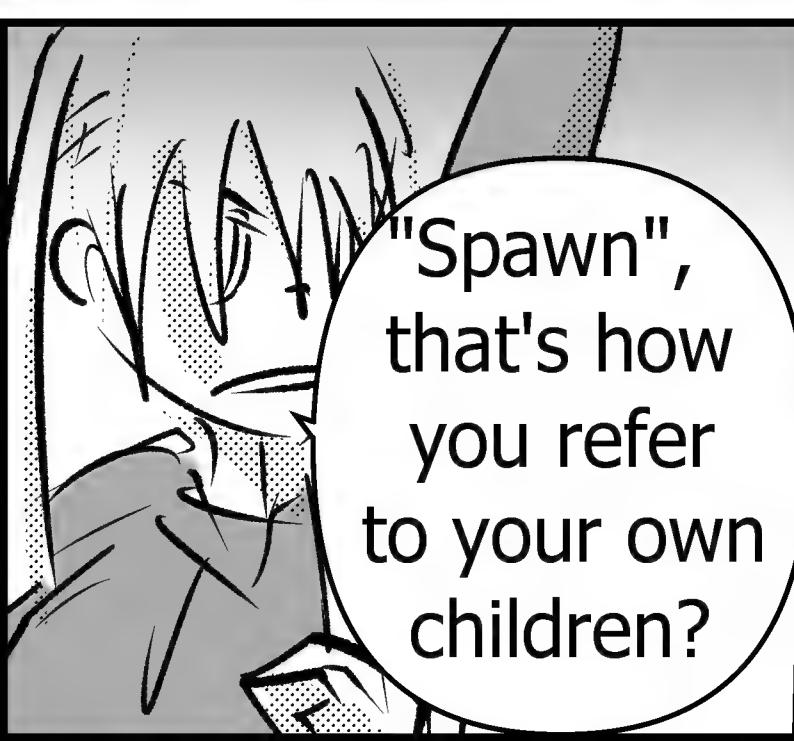


How he was tormented by his own mother...

What a sick culture of monsters



I-I- know boy-spawn usually don't survive for long in the covenant-



"Spawn", that's how you refer to your own children?



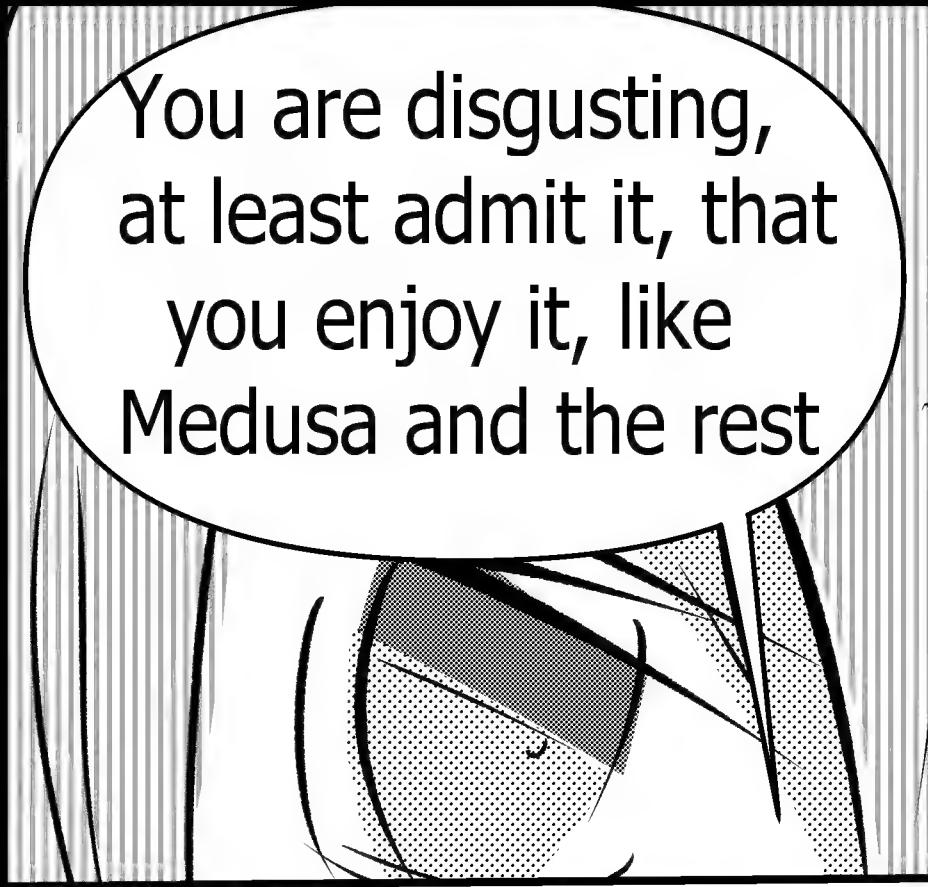
I-it's simply how it was allways done



That's how you justify all the murders, kidnapping and manipulation?



"It is how it is?"



You are disgusting,
at least admit it, that
you enjoy it, like
Medusa and the rest



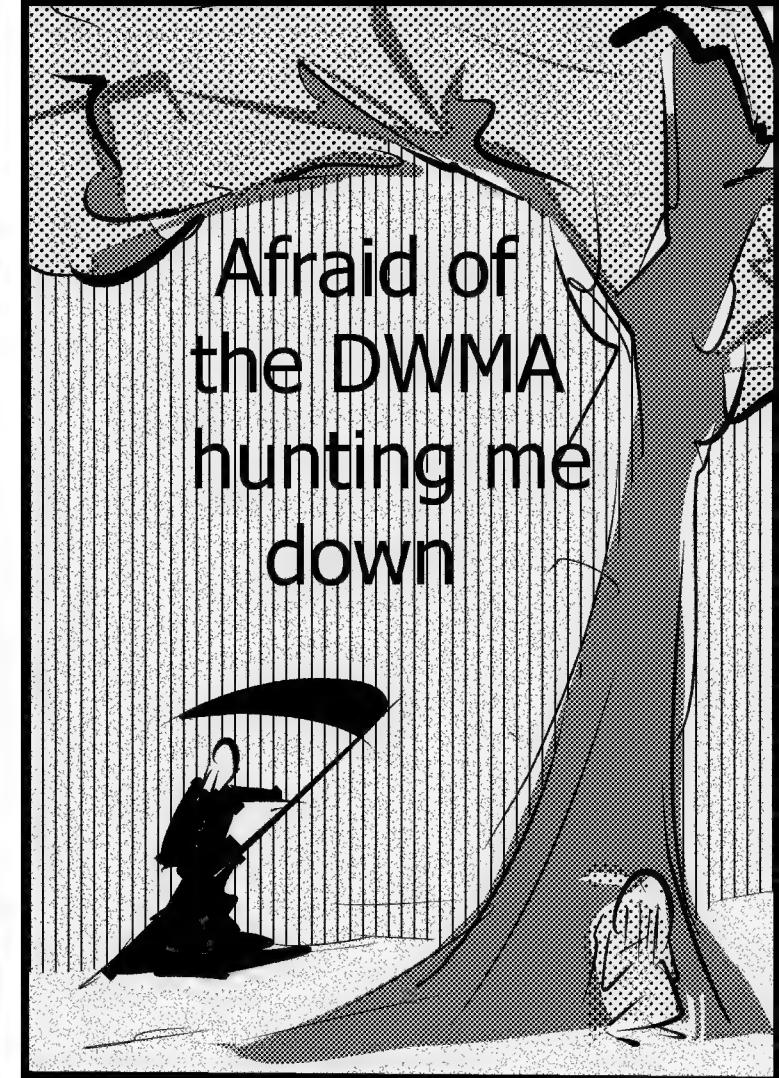
I hate it!



You are right!
I lack courage,
but I also lack
everything else!



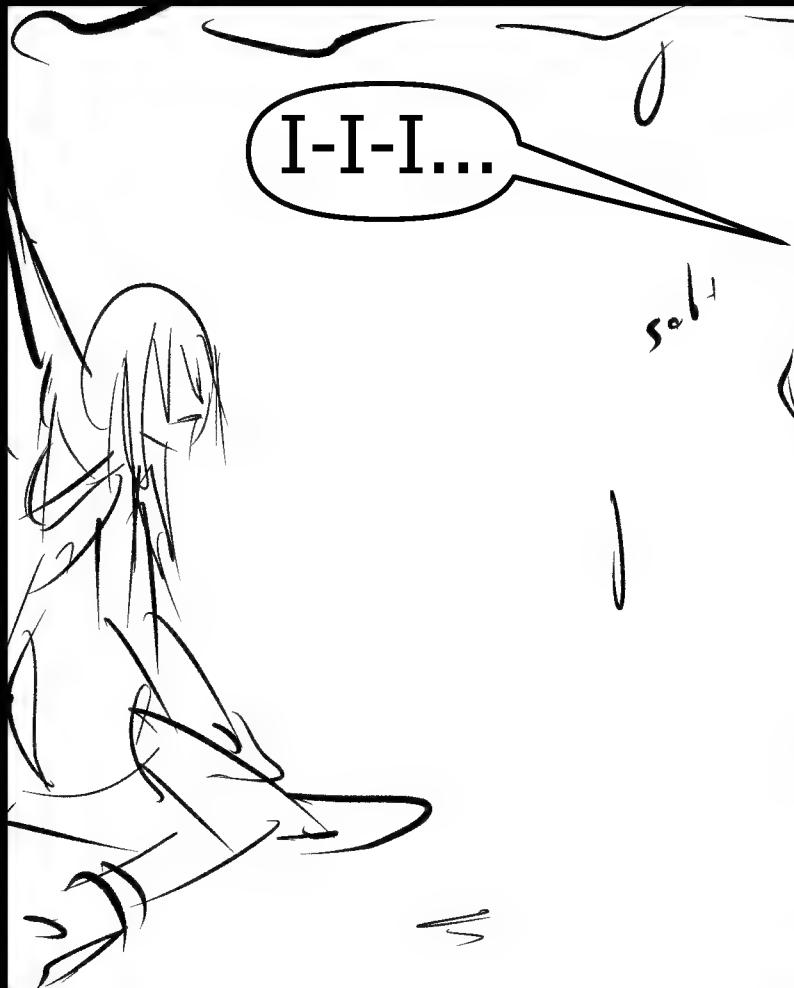
I'm afraid that
I'll never be a
good enough
witch



Afraid of
the DWMA
hunting me
down



Afraid of not living up
to my mother, seeing
the disgust in her eyes,
and even more afraid of
disappointing the one who
took me in and showed
so much pity to me!



I-I-I...

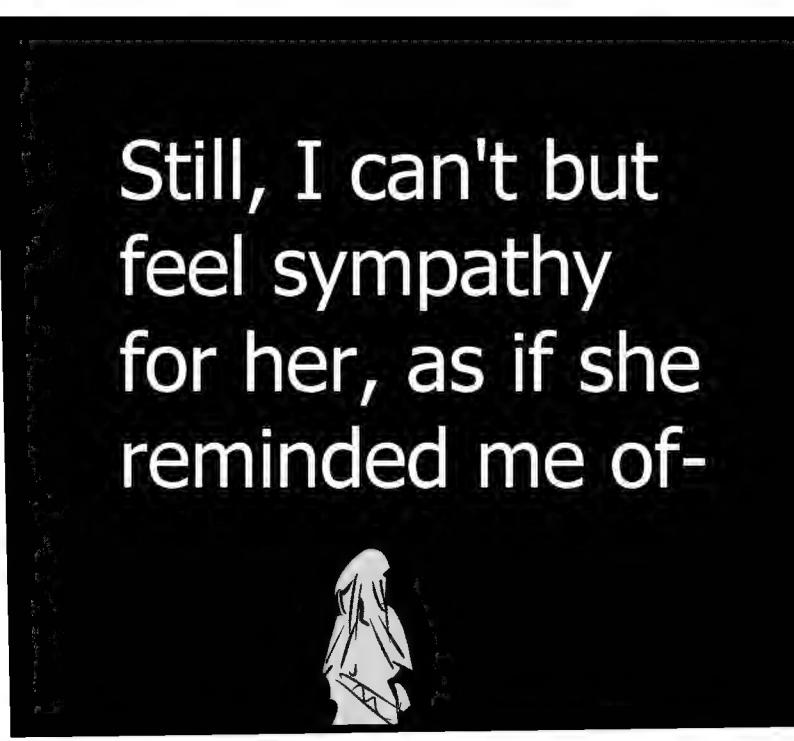


hihihi...

I was supposed to interrogate you, but it's me who broke down into tears...



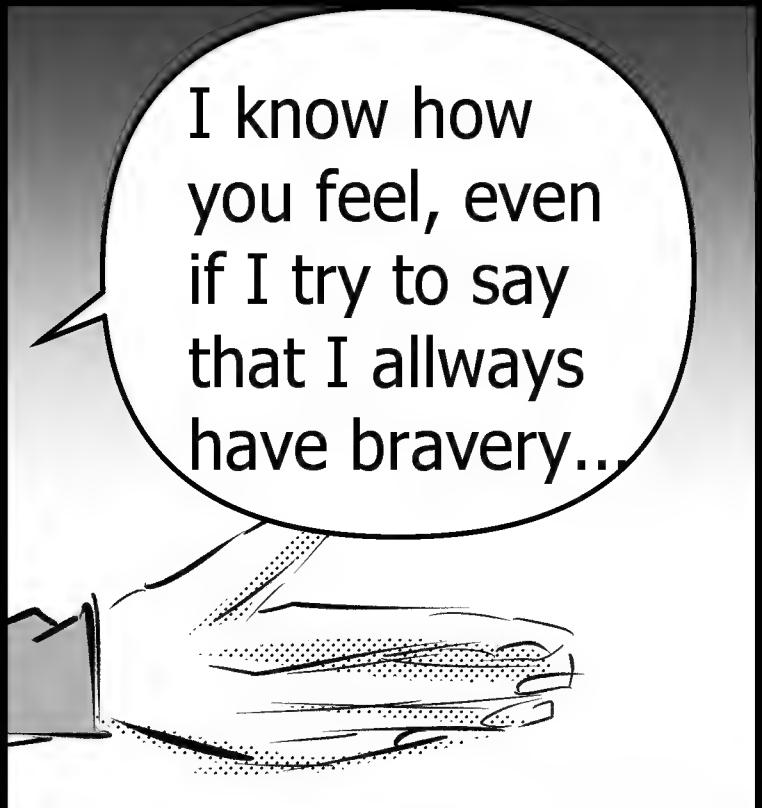
With how tricky witches are, this is likely just a technique to manipulate me



Still, I can't but feel sympathy for her, as if she reminded me of-



Hey... I know I shouldn't say this but...



I know how
you feel, even
if I try to say
that I always
have bravery...



Often I feel
like a failure,
afraid of what
the future
will bring

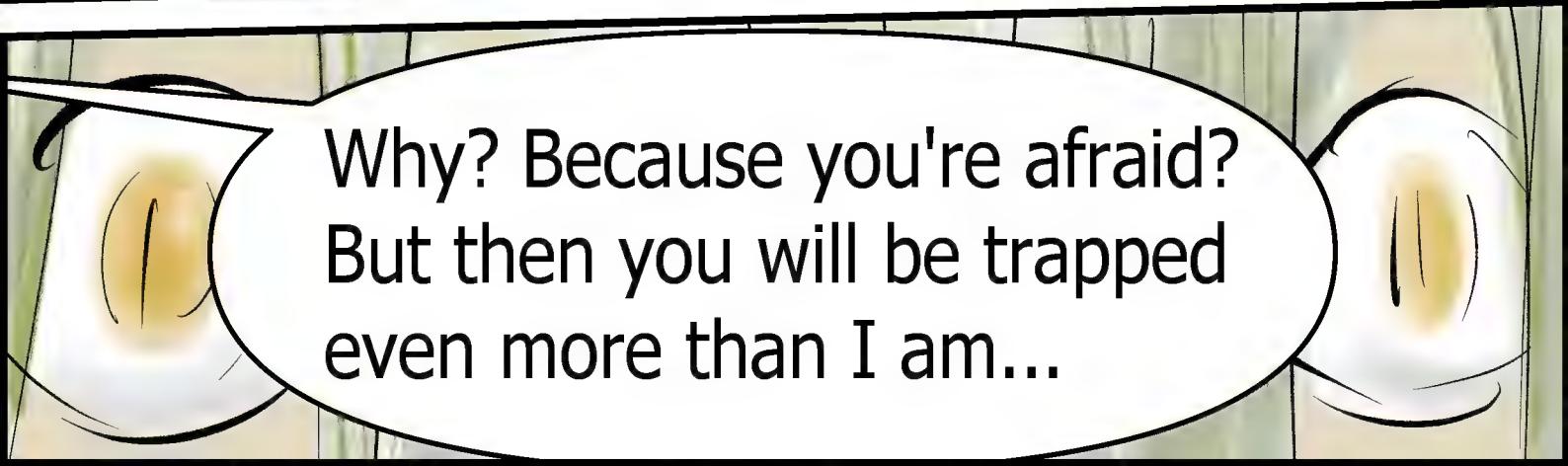


Even now,
I mostly
play up my
confidence
because I'm
trapped here



I-I'm sorry
for that...

Bu-but I can't
release you-



Why? Because you're afraid?
But then you will be trapped
even more than I am...

Without
courage
there is
no lodestar
in the sea
of madness



So please, just-

Y-you don't
understand!

The one
I can't let
down, I'm
doing it all
for her...

Don't cry,
you will be
the apprentice
of the great
witch Kurma!

Here is a
crown fitting
for a queen
of the forest

Haha,
the fake
snake rattled
off to the old
mole

Hahaha!

Oh Kurma
you look
even fatter
next to that
stick!

Th-they
all laugh
b-because
of me...

Don't mind
them, they
are just jealous
I didn't choose
them to be my
successors!

Hahaha,
what a
delightful
movie!

She was
the only
person I
felt that
cared for
me...

Well if she really cares
for you, do you think
she would want you
to destroy your life?

Destroy?

DESTROY?!

She's the only one that didn't want that!

She would never-

I'm not saying she is doing it on purpose...

But recently even my own mother-

S-stop!

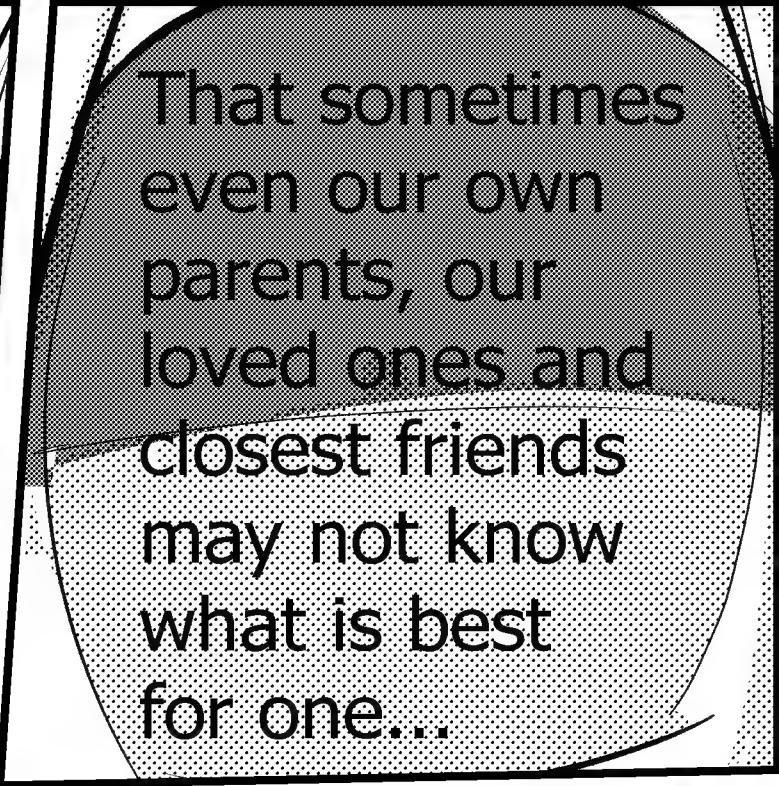
You don't know my mother, my situation!

I-I spoke too much, I have to g-go

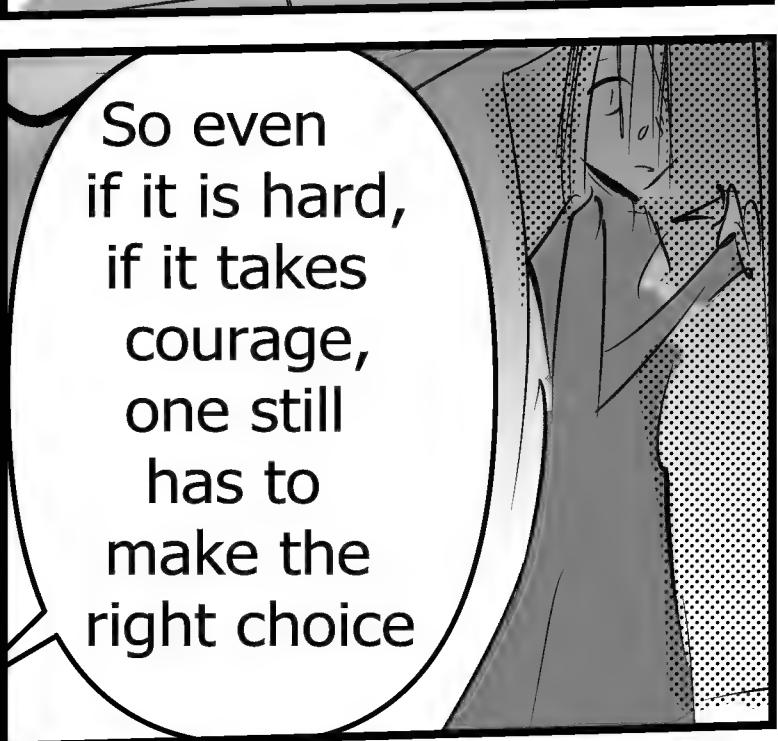
Zalte, quick, we got some complications



I-I- just
wanted
to say



That sometimes
even our own
parents, our
loved ones and
closest friends
may not know
what is best
for one...



So even
if it is hard,
if it takes
courage,
one still
has to
make the
right choice



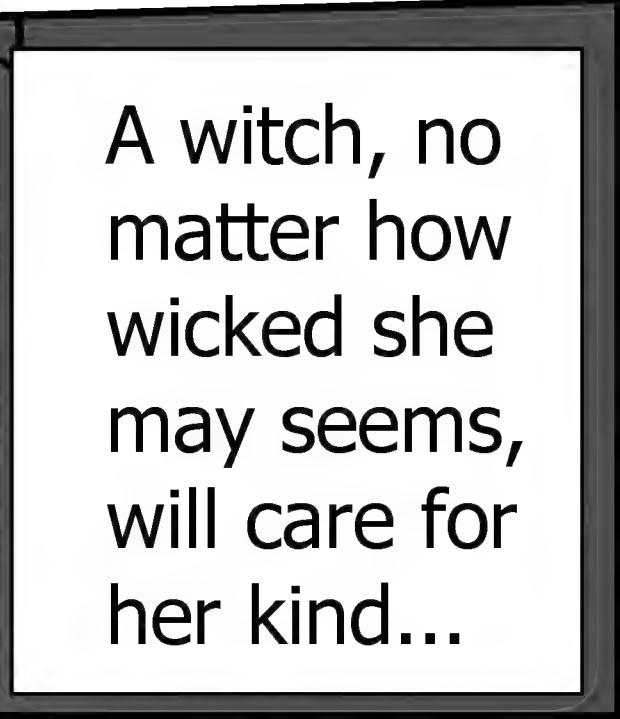
I-I'm not listening
anymore to any
of Death's lies...



Yes...

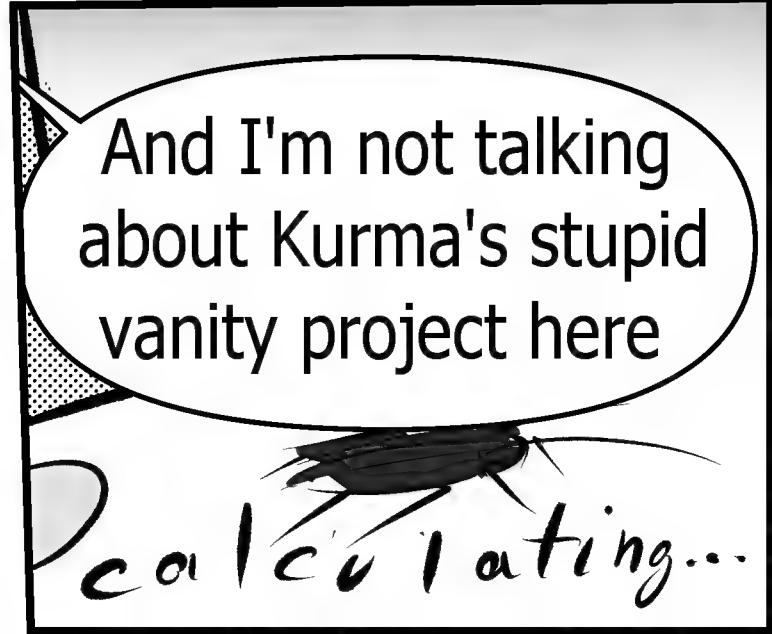
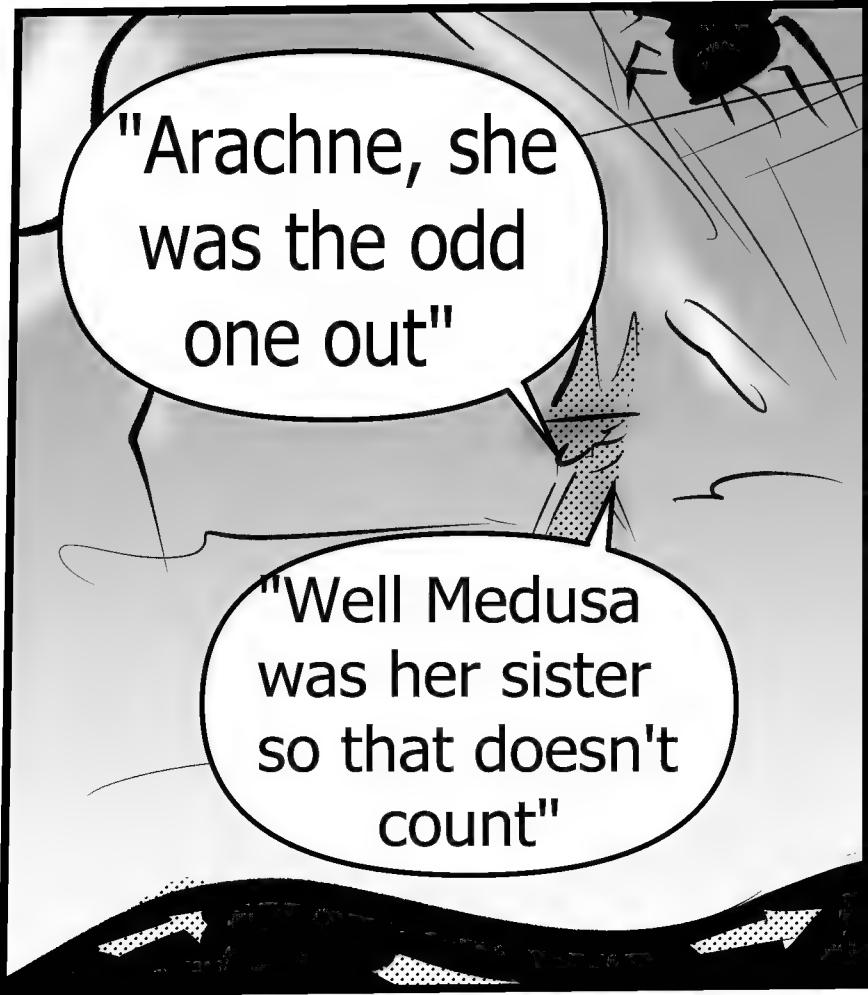
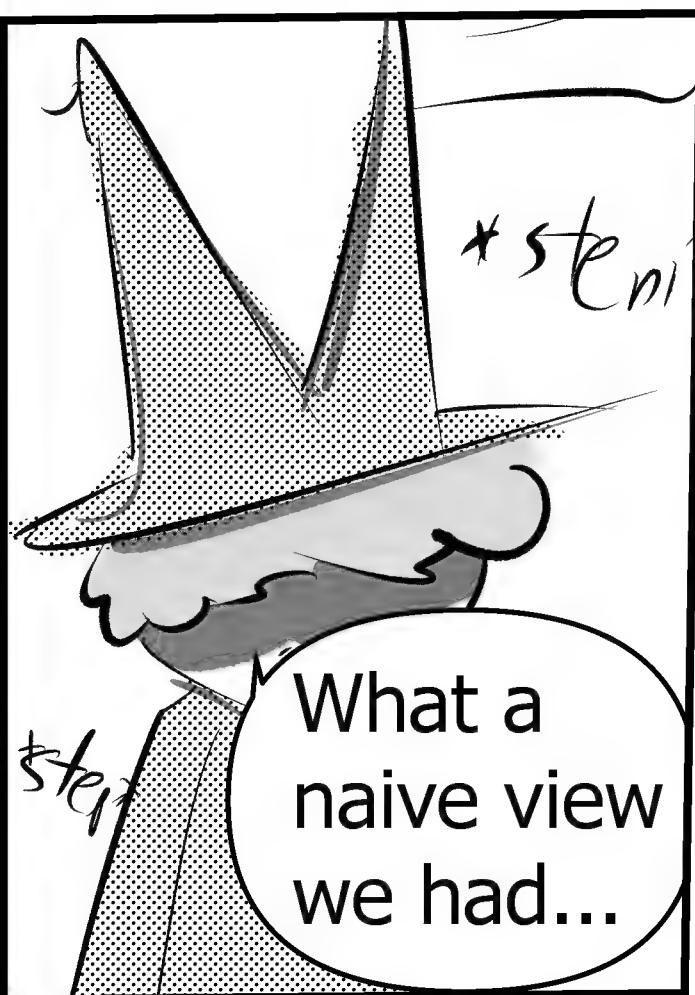


Duh



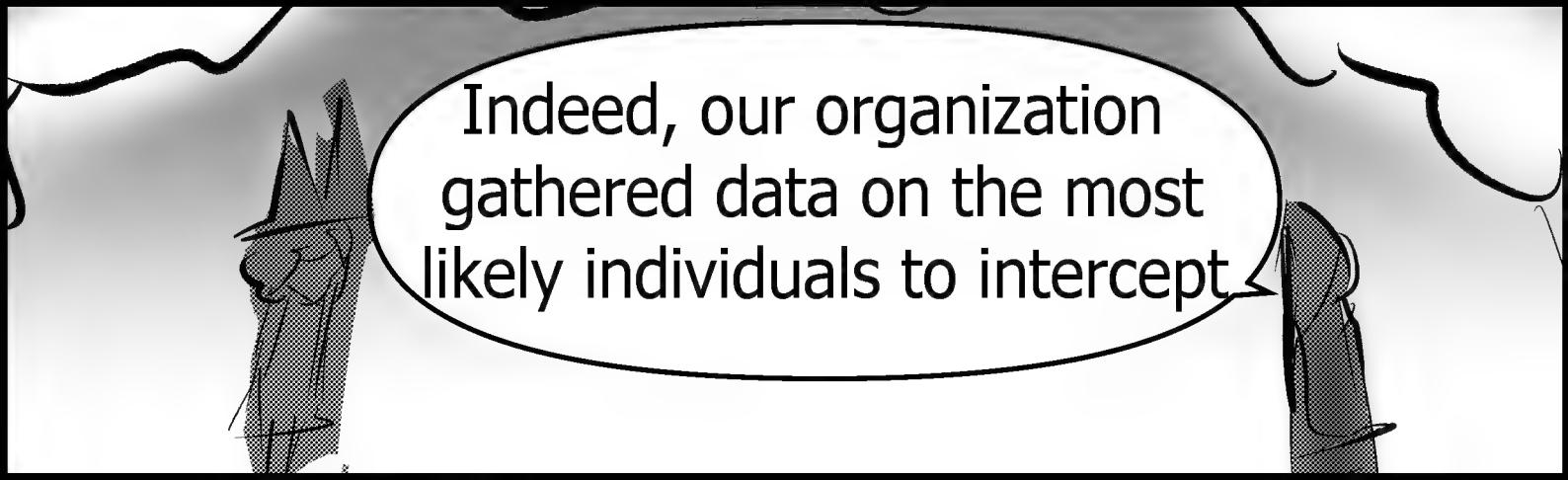
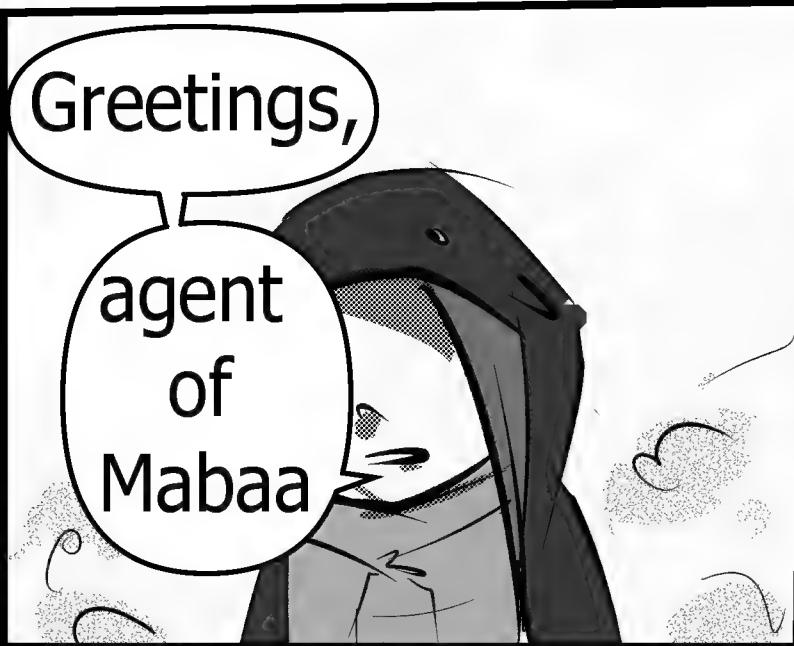
A witch, no
matter how
wicked she
may seem,
will care for
her kind...

Right?





Strategy clear



"Organization"?

How conformist for a witch

The circumstance of the individual exclaiming this accusation being directly under the authority of the leader of an ancient codified hierarchy, makes me choose this as the most fitting response:

click

ha, how hypocritical

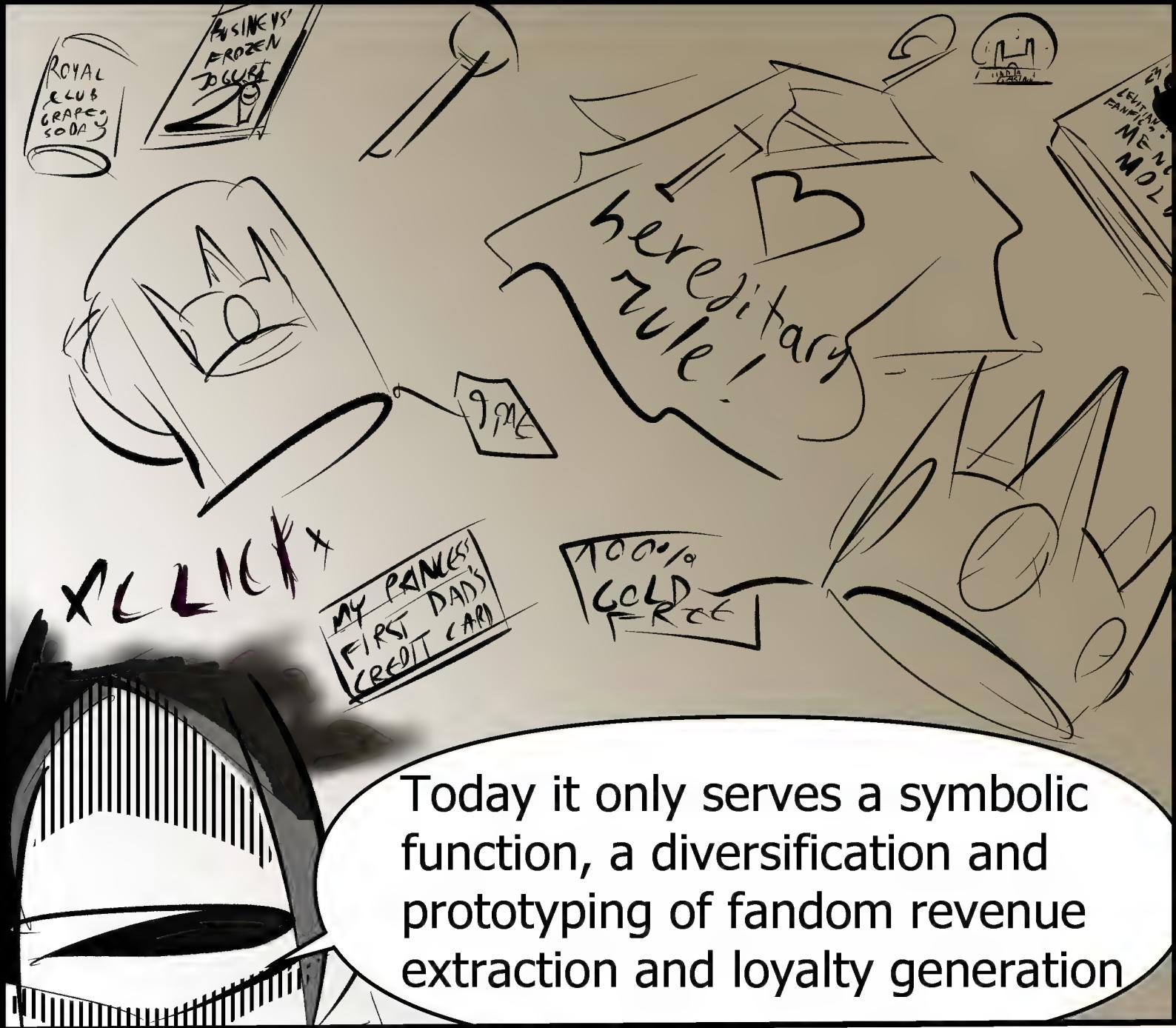
Contemplate it: why would a witch follow a monarch?

This form of power

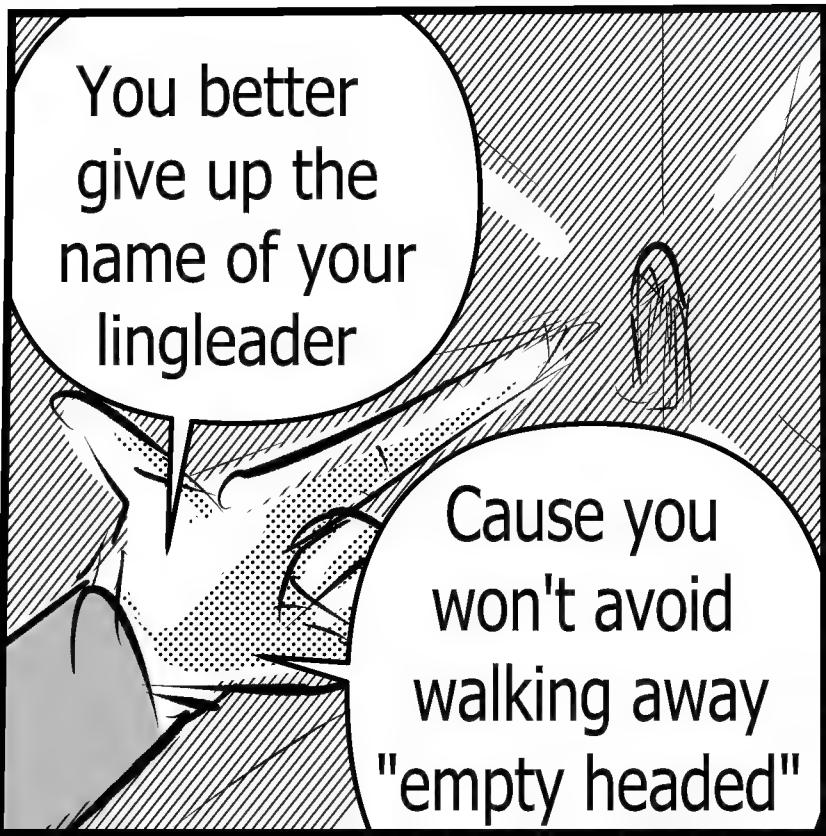
conceptualization has been superseded

click

Replaced
Overhauled
Optimized



Today it only serves a symbolic function, a diversification and prototyping of fandom revenue extraction and loyalty generation



The exchange
of this data would
indeed change the
probability of
survival

click

But
for whom
and in which
direction
click

click

What?

Oh...

Let's just
say she is
who spun
the cocoon
on this world



And the
one who
will make
it burst
out as
a butterfly

for further
pimping out?

haha

click

yes



Tch, think
you're funny?

No

Still gave me enough,
so I only need to
guess what you are
here for



the girl?



the
amber
room?



New recruits and
nourishment for
them?

Confirmation

— x c l i c k —

What
is that
supposed
to mean?

Whatever, if you
smartass don't
wanna cooperate...

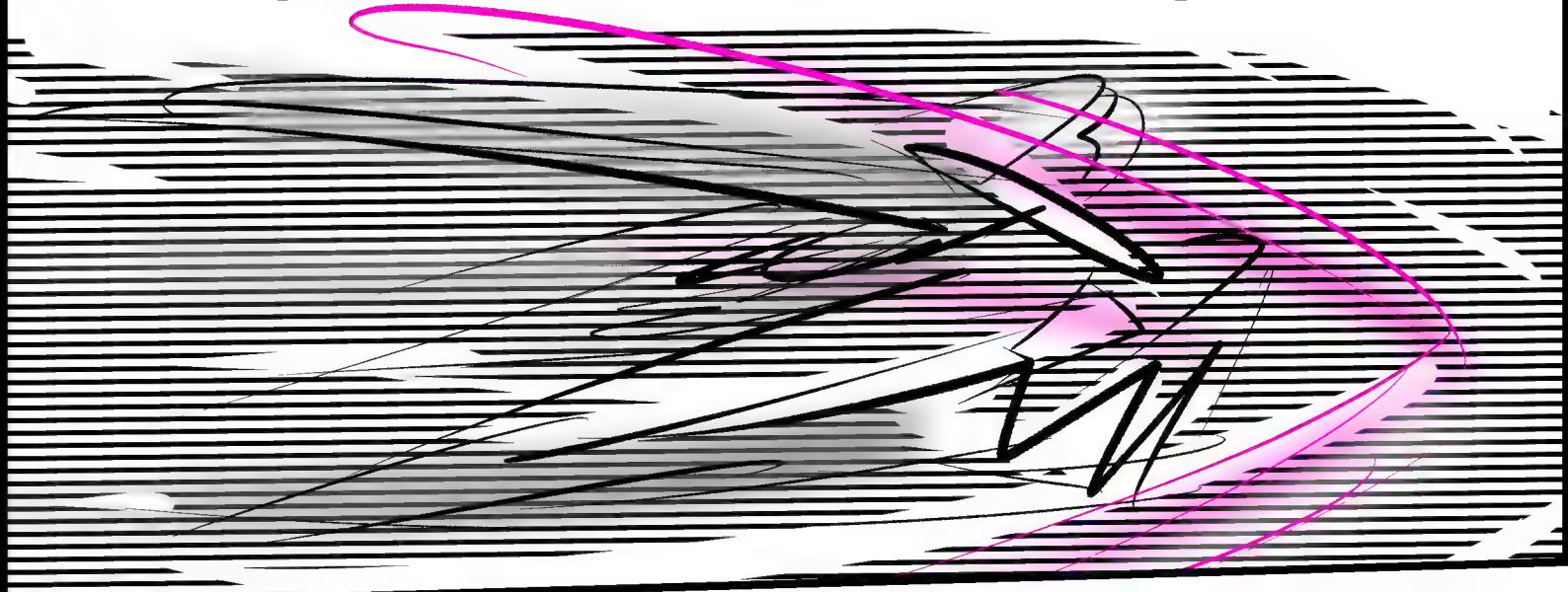
Rabbit-

ruffle

Rabid-

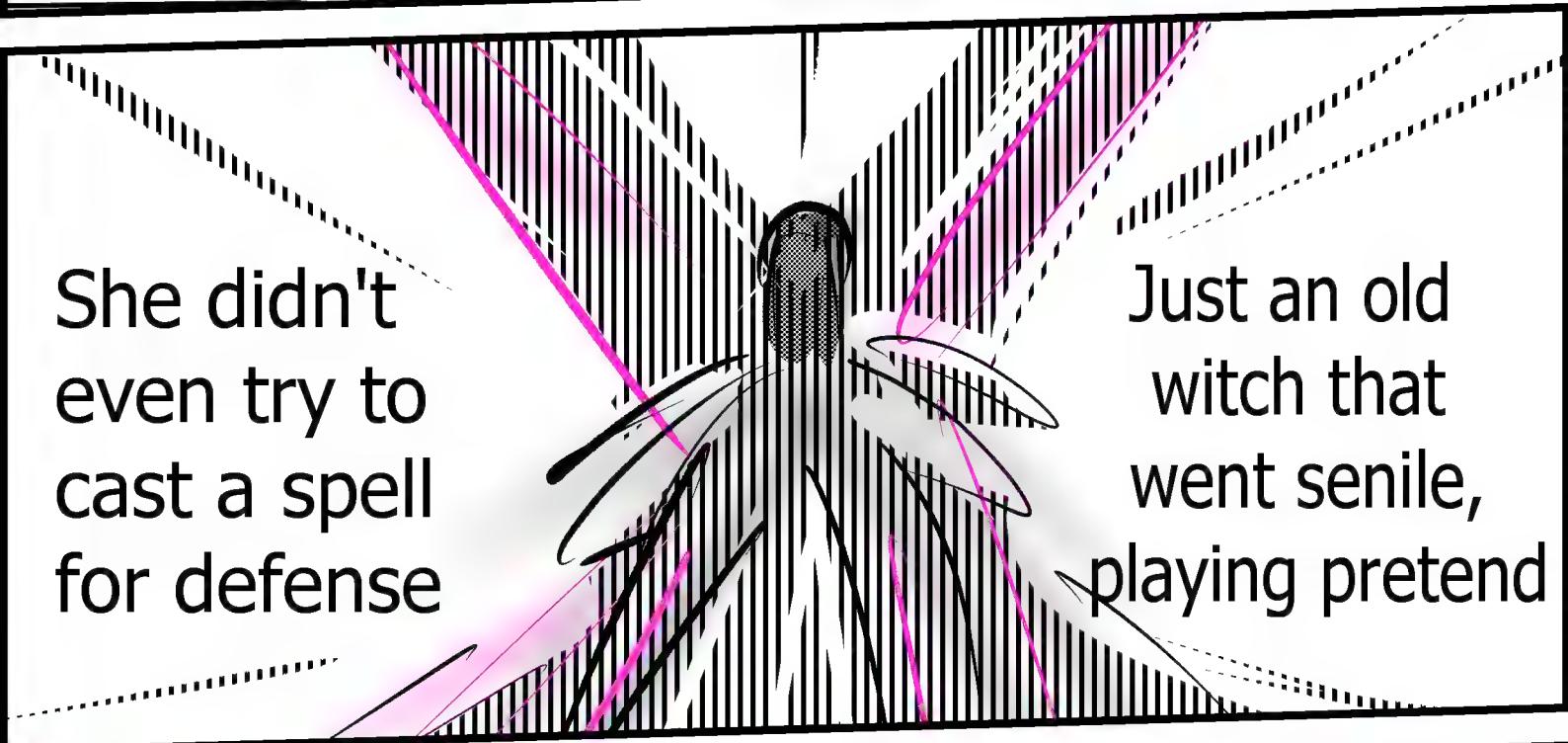
Rabbit-rabbid

Confirmation? This organization must be just as dumb as Kurma's group



She didn't even try to cast a spell for defense

Just an old witch that went senile, playing pretend

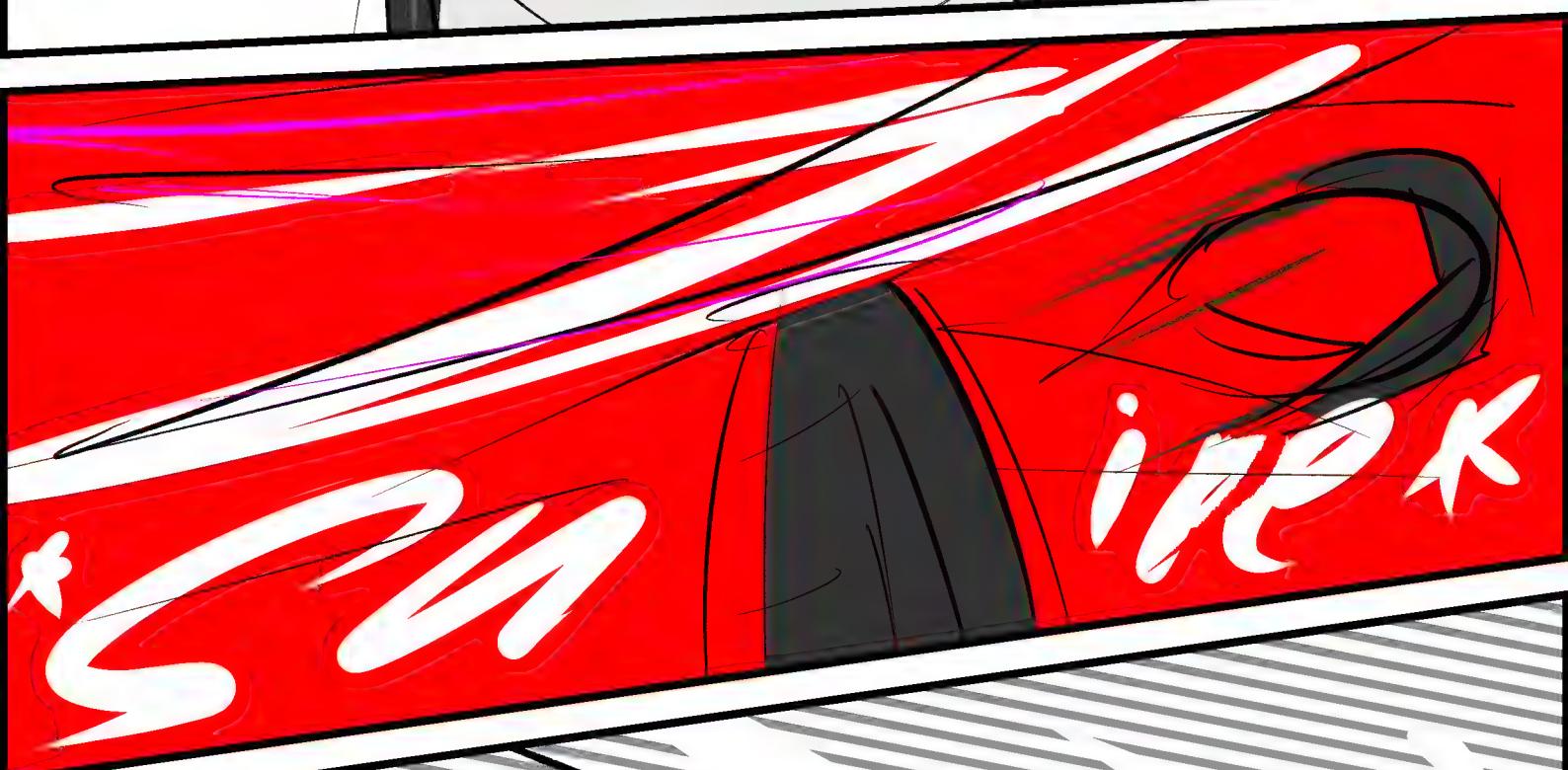


Still, taking her out will be the safest bet

CLICK

it's a
waste

even if



bulk

our

to



pant hate using that spell, at least nobody was there to see it-



Apearances shouldn't matter, only utility

WHO-?!



Otherwise...

Many mistakes will be made

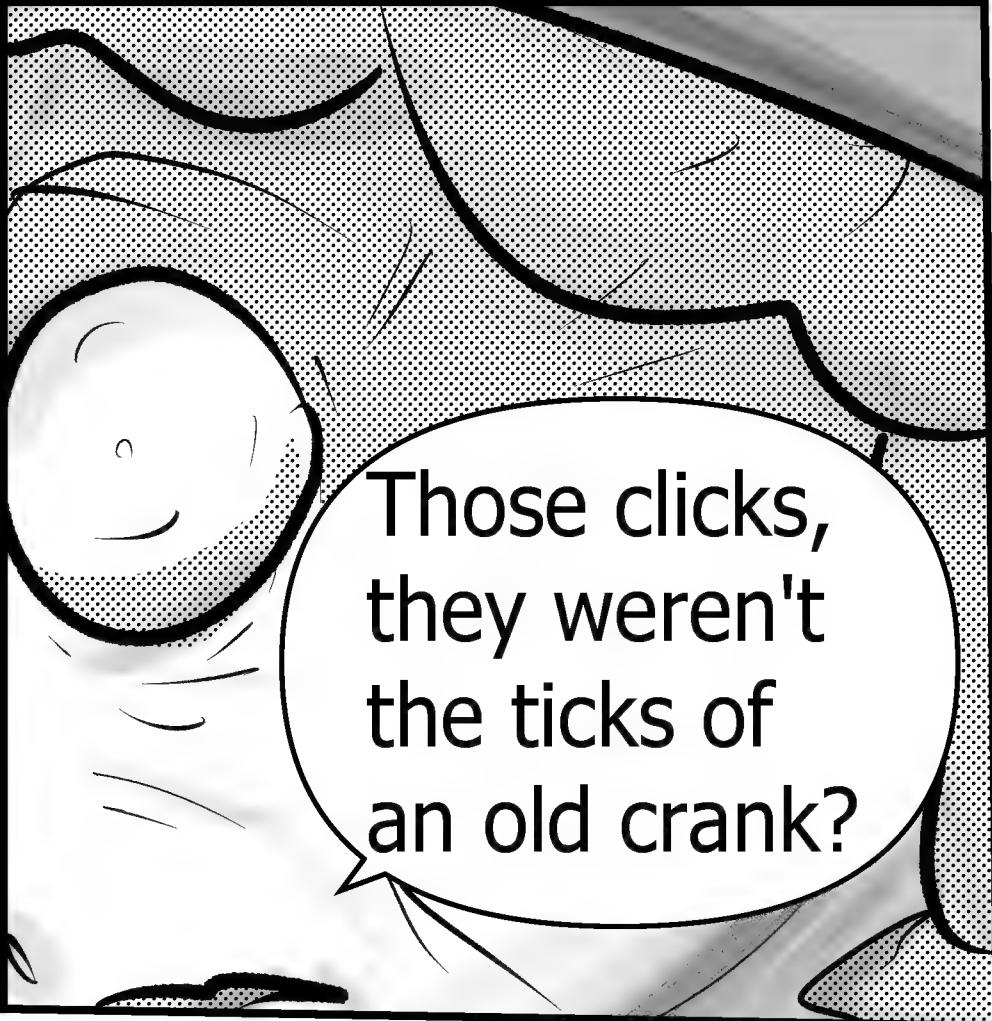


Like choosing your magic words because of their aesthetic value



and not for

covert use



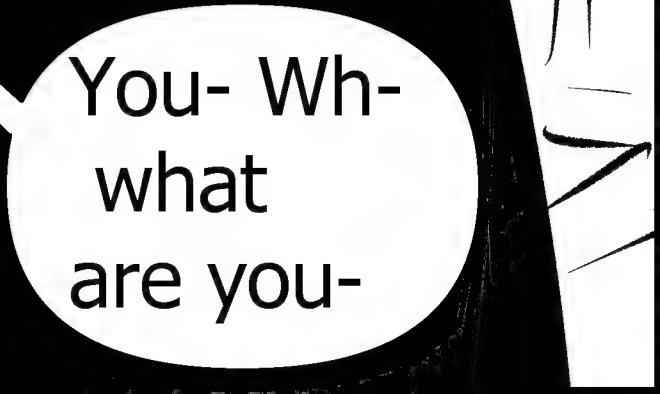
Those clicks,
they weren't
the ticks of
an old crank?



An Khoisan
dialect,
optimised
for my casting
needs



By breaching
my exoskeleton,
you fulfilled the
condition of this
enchantment



You- Wh-
what
are you-

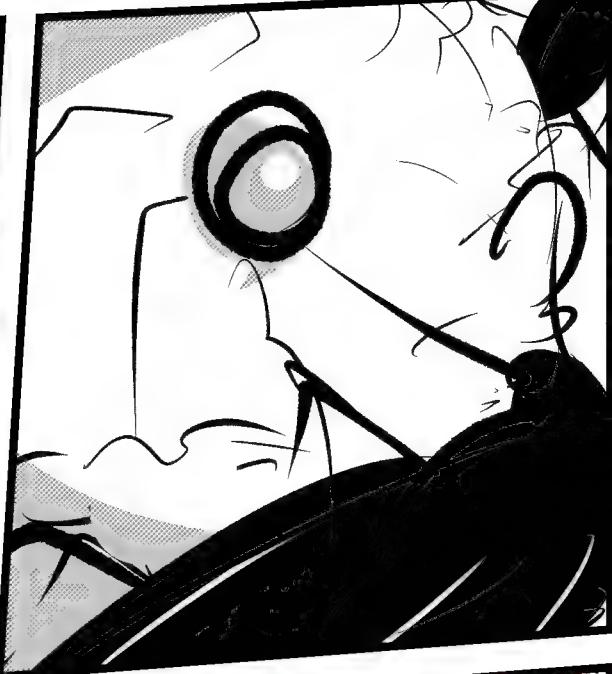
Wh-why do I feel
like ants are
under my skin?!

Wrong
taxonomical
Order

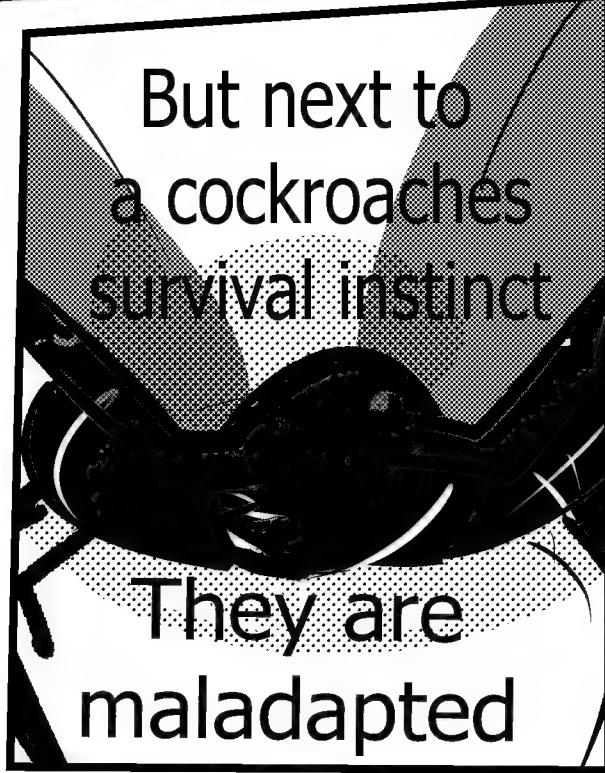
but
pragmatically

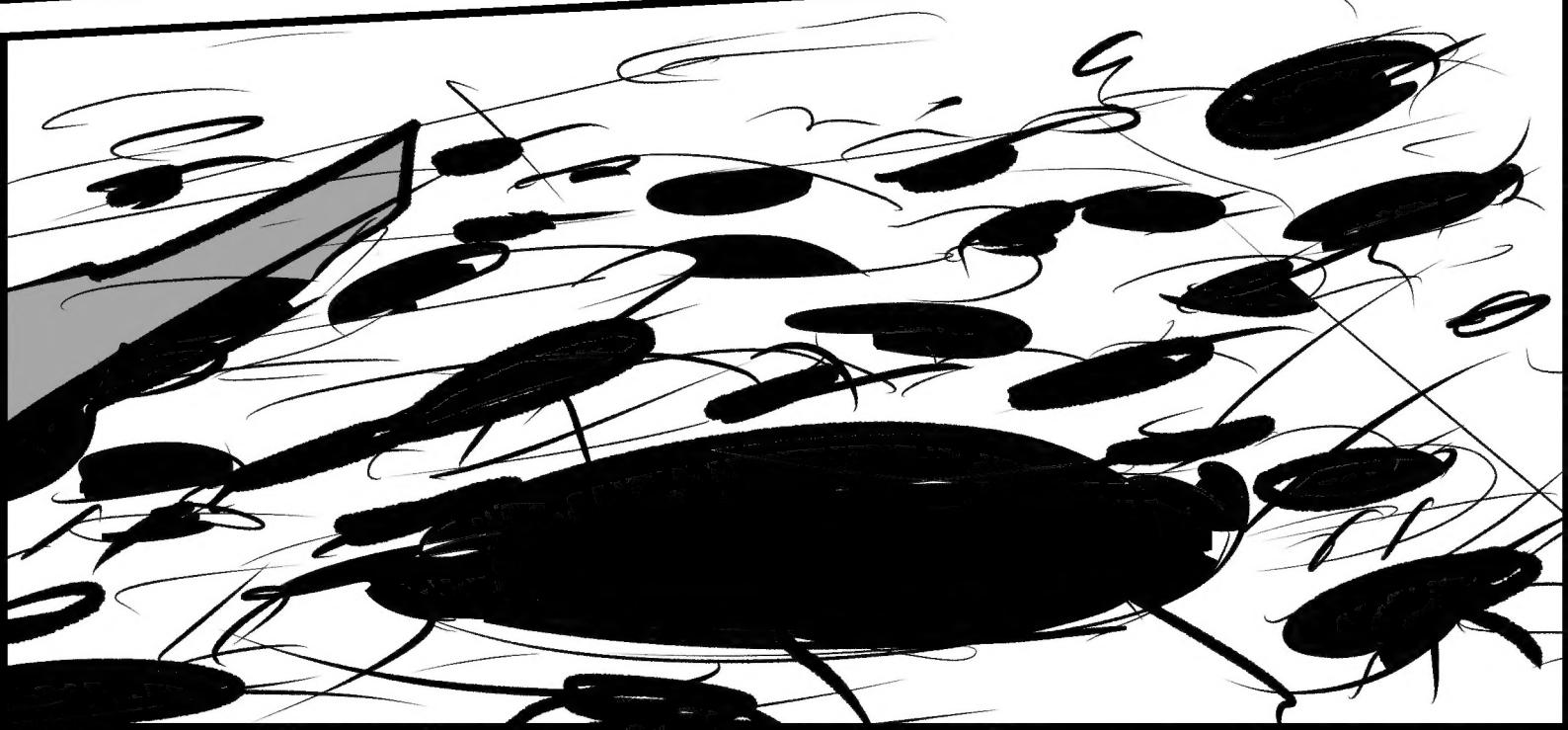
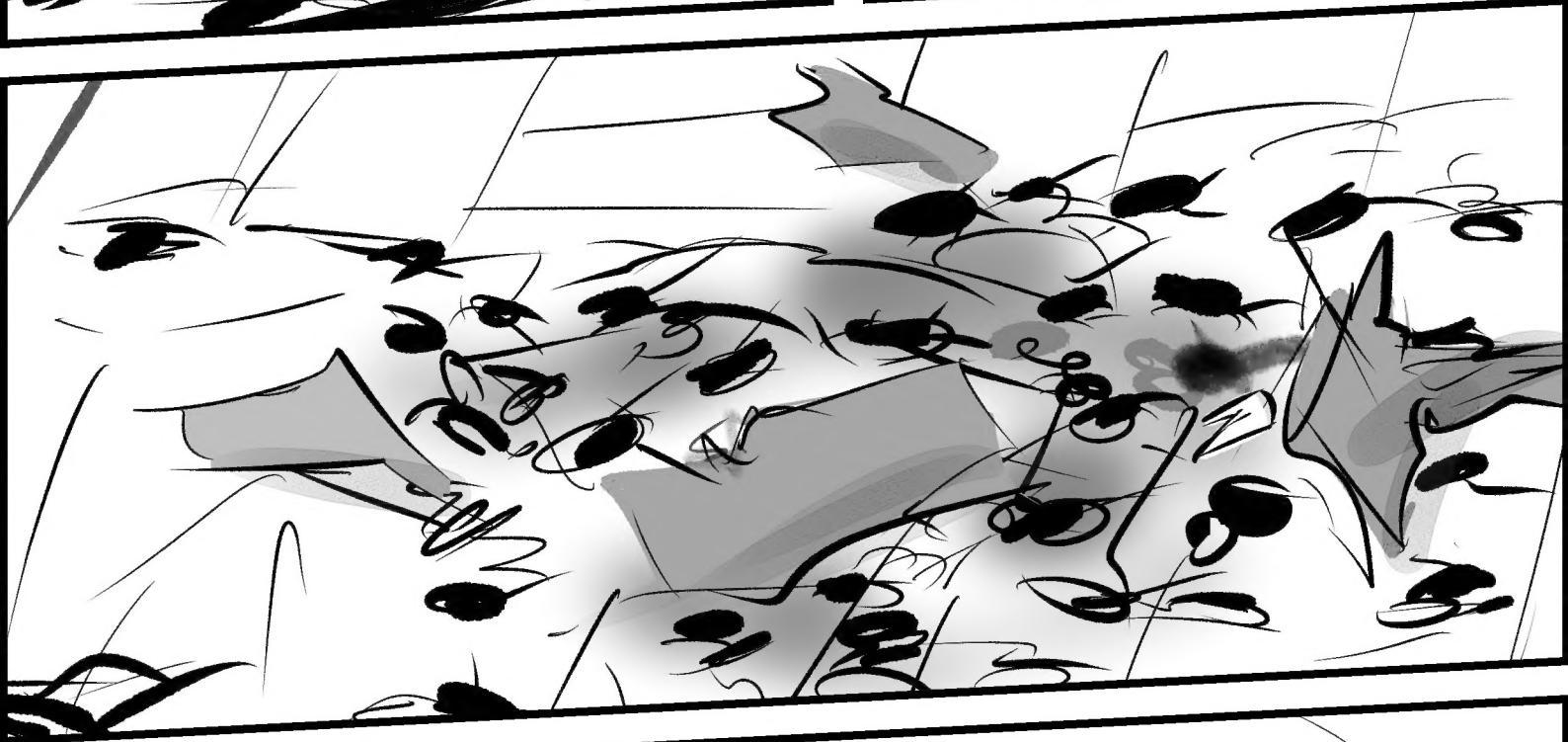
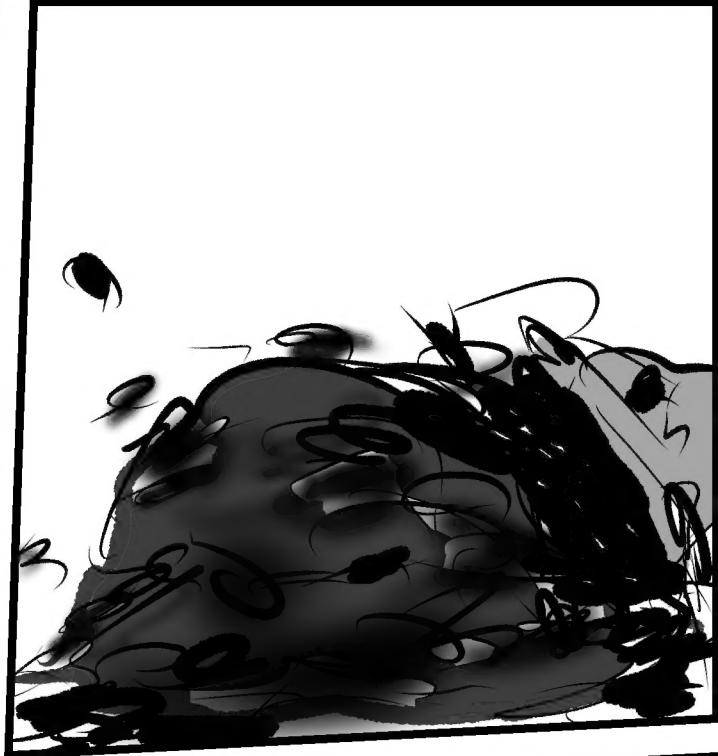
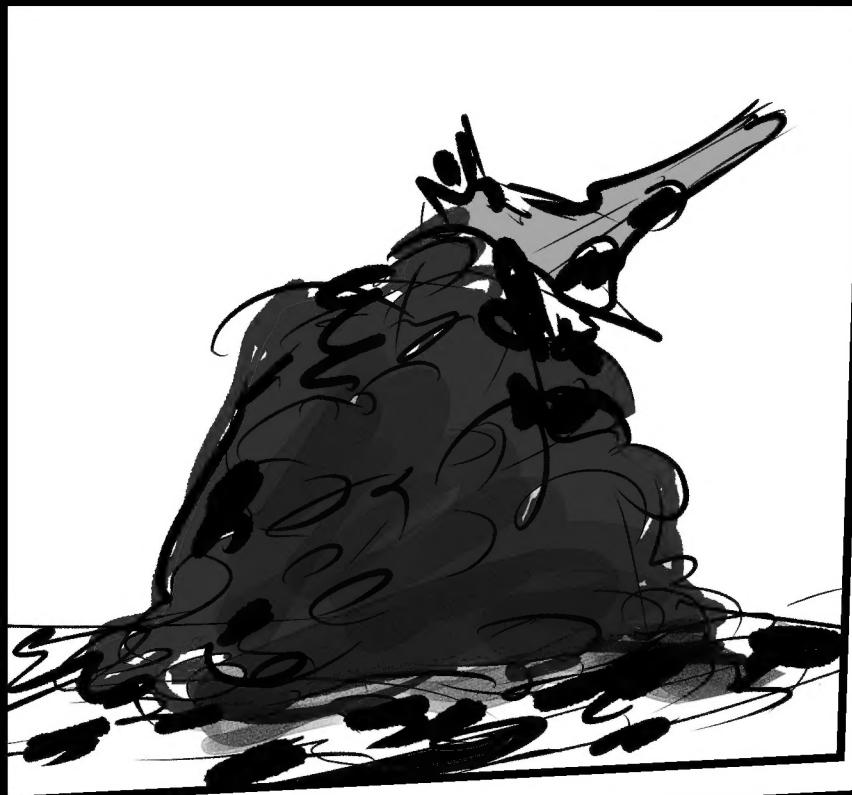
what counts is that it is an

Wh- wh-



the beauty of the survival of the fittest



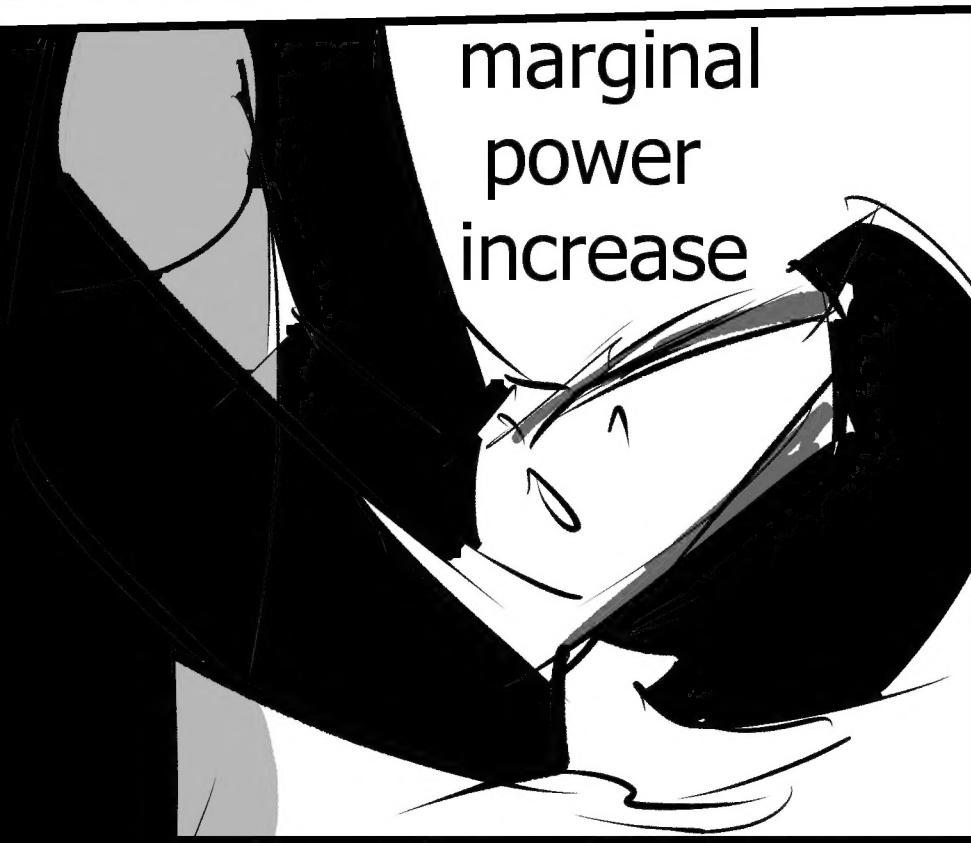


Side mission completed



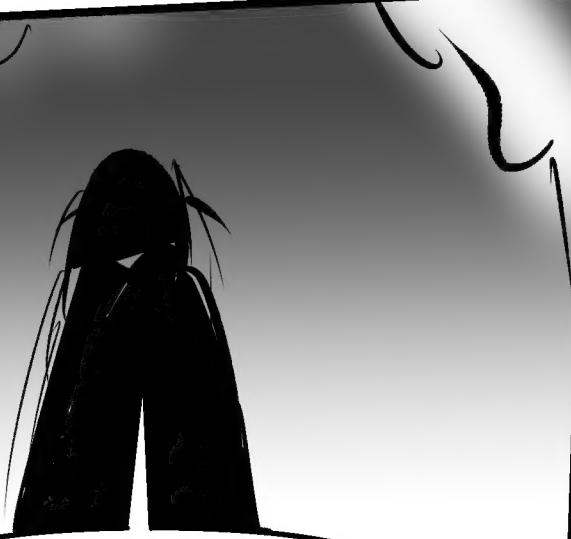
Mabaas
agent
liquidated

marginal
power
increase



pop

All done during uproar, to
remove target without notice

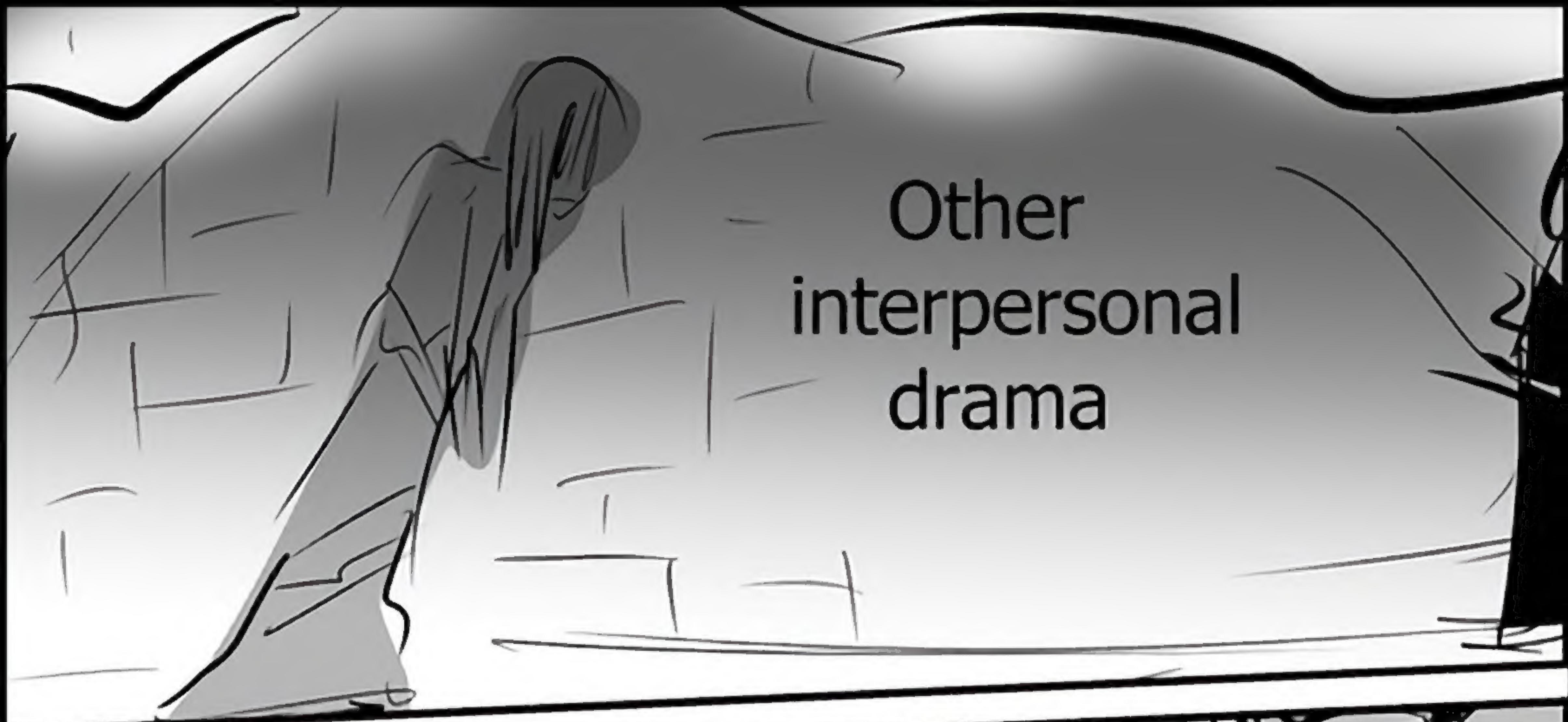


Data gathering
complete

Kishin destroyer:
ineffective, even
if not terminated
by somebody,
too demotivated
to be threatening



All possibilities lead to the same resolution



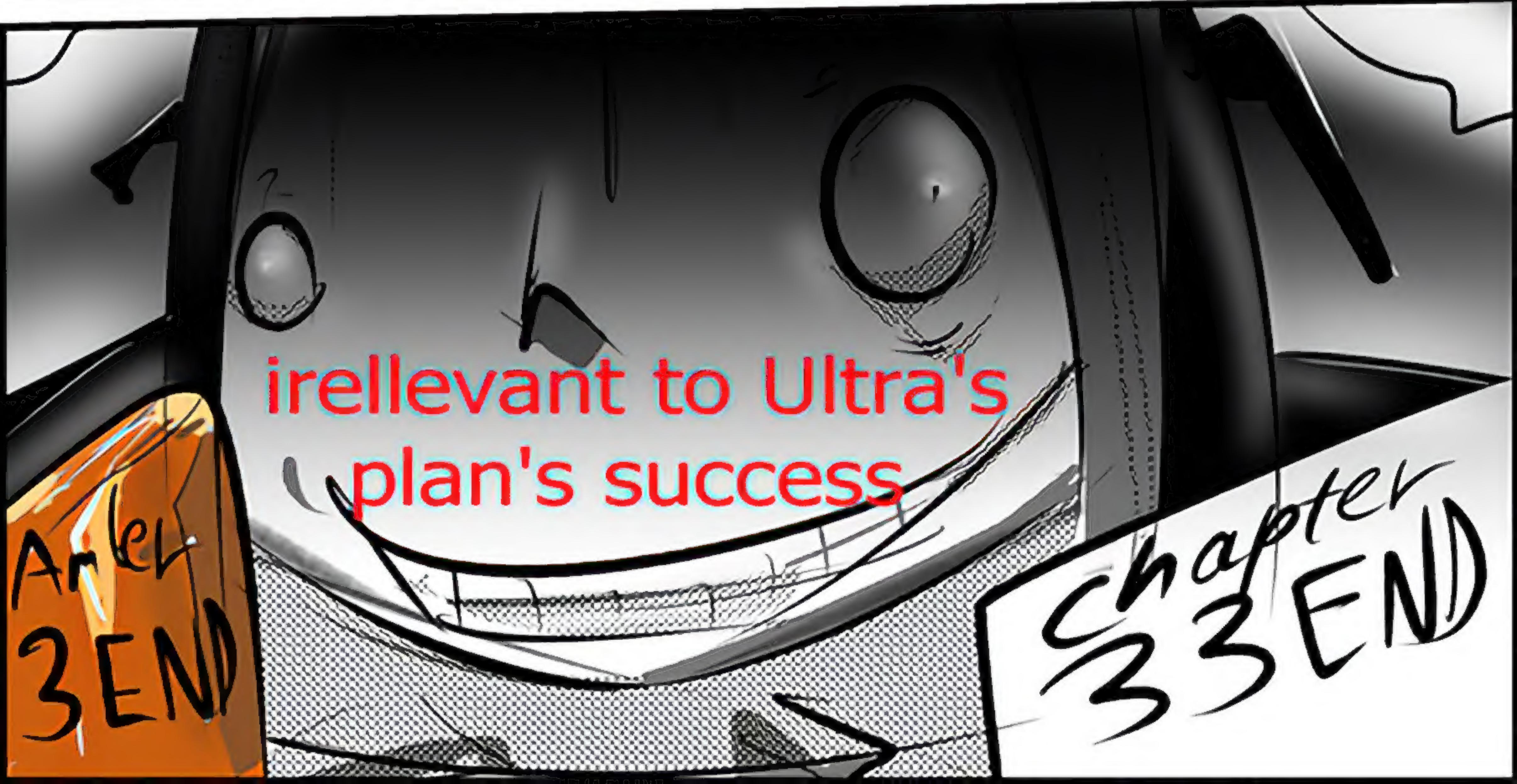
Other
interpersonal
drama



might be
stimulating



but any
realistic
outcome



irrelevant to Ultra's
plan's success

Amber
3 END

Chapter
33 END